

**Approved: June 5, 2014**

**Rockville Environment Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, May 1, 2014  
Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

**Attendance**

**Commissioners Present:** John Becker, Steve Cardon, Kris Dighe (by phone), Lydia Han, Ming Hu, Amanda Matheny, Clark Reed, and Lea Rosenbohm

**Commissioners Absent:** Alicia Hosmer

**M&C Liaison:** Julie Palakovich Carr (absent)

**Guests:** Mark Charles, Environmental Management;  
David Levy, Long Range Planning  
Scott Clausen, City Resident  
Stephanie Reddick, City Resident

**Meeting Commencement**

The meeting convened at 7:32 pm by Chair Reed.

**Approval of the February 6, 2014; March 6, 2014 and April 3 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Dighe moved and Commissioner Becker seconded a motion to approve the February 6, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5-0-1. Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Matheny seconded a motion to approve the March 6, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5-0-1. Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Hu seconded a motion to approve the April 3, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5-0-1 with one minor correction.

**Engage Rockville: A New Public Participation Tool**

David Levy, Manager of the Long Range Planning Staff, briefed Commissioners on a new tool that residents can sign up for on line. The City will send out a topic and take opinions and feedback from residents who participate. To date 132 people have signed up.

**Debrief on the Rockville Climate Change**

A climate change lecture was co-sponsored by the Croydon Creek Nature Center and the Commission. The event was described as follows: a very good lecture that had very small attendance. The refreshment provided by the Commission were very much appreciated. The Outreach Committee will discuss sponsoring another event to introduce the Environment Commission to area environmental professionals.

**Bulk Residential Solar Purchase Opportunity**

Residents can obtain up to 30% off the normal cost of the installation of a residential solar array by committing to purchase the system from Community Power Network. A meeting between the Network and the Environmental Management will be set up for later this month.

## **Environment Commission Minutes**

**May 1, 2014**

**Page 2**

### **Rockville Solar Homes Tour**

The national solar homes tour is scheduled for October but homes must agree to participate by June. Chair Reed intends to draft a letter to all known Rockville solar homes encouraging them to participate in the event.

### **Hometown Holidays Final Planning**

The Commission will kick off this year's event with a screening of the film "Trashed" on Friday evening in the Mayor and Council Chambers. The film will be shown again on Saturday afternoon. The Commission has invited Julie Lawson of Trash Free Maryland to speak after the Friday evening screening. Refreshments will also be provided on Friday. Environmental Management will send an invitation to City senior staff and all Board and Commission liaisons. Environmental Management will also work with individual Commissioners re projection and sound equipment. A movie poster will be placed in Dawson's Market and in the Library at least a the week before the event.

The group also made final plans to set up, staff and take down the booth and all of the models and brochures and other materials. Stephanie Reddick is bringing a solar telescope. The City Bike advisory committee has agreed to occupy the Commission's booth on Sunday. The booth is located on Montgomery Avenue in the vicinity of the Regal Theater. Environmental Management will also coordinate the transportation of the booth materials to and from the booth, including a demonstration rainbarrel.

### **Report on the Status of the Multi-City Energy Competition**

Chair Reed has not heard from any potential City partners at this point in time. The City should consider entering the contest with data from the Swim Center and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater.

### **Debrief on the Spring Maryvale Stream Clean Up Event**

The April 5 stream clean up event started at 10:30 and went until 12:00. 25 volunteers collected 25 bags of trash from the Commission's adopted stream segment. The next clean up event will occur in October.

### **Environmental Management Report**

#### **Environmental Excellence Awards**

Commissioners Matheny, Becker and Rosenbohm participated in the April 28 2014 presentation of the Environmental Excellence Awards with the Mayor and Council.

#### **Earth Month /Earth Day Proclamation**

Mark Charles described some of the Earth Day events, including the Arbor Day/Earth Day tree planting on April 22; there were 19 stream clean-ups that attracted 205 participants who volunteered 507 hours and collected 167 trash bags from City streams; 30 community members

attended a Green Your Backyard lecture sponsored by the Environmental Management staff; and the crowd at the annual Spring Fest was consistently busy.

## **Environment Commission Minutes**

**May 1, 2014**

**Page 3**

### **EPA Proposed Definition of Navigable Waters**

Mark reported on a *federal register* notice published on April 21 that proposes revisions to the federal Clean Water Act definition of navigable waters. This definition is key to determining which waters of the U.S. are covered by the protections and requirements in the statute.

### **Rockville Staff to Conduct Inspection and Enforcement Training on National Webinar**

Mark Charles and Audra Lew will serve as faculty for the inaugural Chesapeake Water Environment Association stormwater webinar. The webinar is scheduled for May 7 and will focus on the keys to inspections and enforcement generally and a detailed discussion on sediment and erosion inspections of construction sites. The webinar was initially sold out, attracted a national audience and received high evaluation scores from the audience.

### **New Business**

- The Community Solar bill that the Commission and Environmental Management worked on did not get out of committee. The Commission believes the bill will be submitted again next session.
- It was noted that COG has a mutual purchase agreement in place to purchase hybrid electric vehicles. Stephanie Reddick and Ryan Marcheschi of the Sustainable Design and Energy Committee plan to meet with the Montgomery County Fleet Manager and the Clean Cities coalition about the future use of electric vehicle charging stations in the area.
- The Committee is also trying to identify grant money that might be available to Rockville and training opportunities on purchasing and repairing alternative fuel vehicles.
- There is a Bike Master Plan public meeting scheduled for May 14.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:34 pm.

### **Next Commission Meeting**

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, June 5, 2014**. This meeting will be held in the Diamondback Conference Room of the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland. The public is invited to attend.